Nomination Papers Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can I turn in copies of the nomination papers?

A: No, you must turn in the originals that were provided.

Q: Can I pick up more nomination papers if I need them?

A: No, you will receive 3 pages in your packet, which is the maximum allowable according to MGL ch. 54A s. 3

Q: How many signatures should I turn in?

A: You need 50 certified signatures to get on the ballot and you are allowed to submit a maximum of 100 signatures.

Q: What if I have more than 100 signatures?

A: You will be required to cross some signatures off before submitting your nomination papers. You can only submit 100 signatures.

Q: Do I have to turn in all of the signatures I collect at the same time?

A: No, you can turn in one page at a time until you reach 100 signatures or until you use all three of the pages provided.

Q: What if the ward and precinct spaces are left blank?

A: According to 950 CMR 55.03(2), registrars must certify a name even if the voter's ward or precinct number has not been provided.

Q: When do I find out how many signatures are valid?

A: Nomination papers are processed in the order that they are submitted. Once the signatures have been checked by office staff, you can call or come to the office to find out the number of preliminarily certified signatures. Nomination papers are not officially certified until they have been viewed by the Board of Election Commissioners.

Q: What happens if a voter signs nomination papers for two candidates for the same office?

A: The signature will be credited to the candidate who submits the nomination papers with that signature first.

Q: Can I receive a photocopy of the nomination papers that I submitted?

A: You can receive a copy only after they have been certified by the Board of Election Commissioners.

Q: Do I need to have every page notarized?

A: Yes.

Q: Do I need to have the pages notarized prior to circulating for signatures?

A: Yes.